

# Public Sector

## S A F E T Y R E P O R T

### *Public Sector enforcement activity October through December 2001*

- During this period, Public Sector Enforcement assessed fines totaling \$59,530.00
- Most frequent violations:
  - Employers did not have lockout/tagout program. 29CFR1910.147(c)(1)
  - Employers did not conduct medical evaluation for respirator use. 29CFR1910.134(e)(1)
  - Electrical equipment was not free from serious hazards. 29CFR1910.303(b)(1)
  - Employer did not assess the workplace for hazards which require the use of personal protective equipment. 29CFR1910.132(d)

### *New recordkeeping rules*

Starting this year, employers have new rules and new forms for keeping injury and illness records. Maine public sector employers are encouraged to start using the new system, but they can use the old forms until the new rules are finalized later this year. The rules for Maine public sector workplaces are expected to be the same as OSHA's new recordkeeping rules, **EXCEPT** for the following:

- All Maine public sector employers who have 11 or more employees at any one time in the calendar year must maintain the required forms **regardless of their industry or Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code.**
- Under the recordkeeping rules for Maine public sector, the term "employees" includes volunteers, elected and appointed officials, and ASPIRE and workfare employees **whether they are paid or not.** Public sector employers must include all paid and unpaid workers (such as volunteer firefighters), all elected officials (town selectmen, members of the school board, etc.), all appointed officials (members of the planning board, public health officials, road commissioners, town managers, etc.) and all ASPIRE and workfare employees as part of the count to determine if they have 11 or more employees.
- Public sector worksites that are seasonal and are not open during the required posting period of February 1 through April 30 may post the summary for 90 days after reopening. Parks, recreation departments, and other seasonal operations can delay their posting until they reopen.

### **For detailed information, training, or copies of the new forms:**

- contact the Maine Department of Labor at 624-6400 (TTY: 800-794-1110);
- go to <http://www.state.me.us/labor/blsmain.htm>; or
- go to the OSHA web page at <http://www.osha.gov>.

***Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://www.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>***

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services provided upon request.

**Return Service Requested**

MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR  
*Public Sector Enforcement*

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**Winter 2002**

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*The Public Sector Safety Report* is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees of safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

***Please post this Report to share the information with employees.***

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at [webmaster.bls@state.me.us](mailto:webmaster.bls@state.me.us) TTY 1-800-794-1110.